BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1909.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bedale Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my sixth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the District under your control.

The District is a purely agricultural one, covering an area of 40,530 acres, and with a population in 1901 of 6,794. This has probably not changed very much since then, and is equal to about 5·96 persons per acre, whereas the average population for the North Riding as a whole is 0·187 per acre.

The District has two sub-divisions, Bedale and Masham, with populations of 5,014 and 1,780 respectively.

The sub-district of Bedale has nineteen townships, and that of Masham ten.

Births. During the year the number of births was 181, giving a birth rate of 26·64 per 1,000 population, nearly the highest during the last ten years. There were 99 boys and 82 girls born.

		1908		1909	
Bedale ...	Males ...	73	126	69	130
	Females ...	53		61	
Masham ...	Males ..	22	47	30	51
	Females ...	25		21	
			173		181
Birth rate per 1,000 population ...			25·46		26·64
For last ten years				25·20	

It is a matter for great congratulation that none of these 181 children died in the district during 1909

Deaths. There were only four deaths of Children under the age of one year, all Children born in 1908. Two died in each sub-division. The average number of deaths under one year for the last 10 years has been 16·2, a rate of 94·05 per 1,000 births as against a rate of 22·09 for this year.

There have been 82 deaths, and of these two were at or over 90, twenty were at or over 80, that is nearly one in four of the deaths were those of people who had passed their 80th birthday, and 43, or more than half, had reached 70.

The average age at death including all deaths was 59·53 years. Dividing the sexes and the districts the averages were:—

Bedale ... Men 55·74 years. Women 61·66 years.
Masham ... Men 61·76 years. Women 61·26 years.

The death rate for the district is, as shown on Table 1, below the average for the last ten years.

The deaths of males and females in the two sub-divisions were:—

		1908.		1909.	
Bedale ...	Males ...	38	75	29	62
	Females ...	37		33	
Masham ...	Males ...	12	19	10	20
	Females ...	7		10	
			94		82
Rate per 1,000 population ...			13·84		12·07
Average rate for last 10 years				13·99	

This shews that for this year the birth rate is higher and the death rate lower.

The Births and Deaths each month are:—

	Births		Deaths	
	Bedale	Masham	Bedale	Masham
January	9	3	5	3
February	12	1	3	3
March	5	8	5	2
April	10	4	5	1
May	16	4	4	1
June	10	7	7	1
July	6	10	7	2
August	13	0	5	1
September ...	9	5	6	0
October	15	4	1	2
November ...	13	5	6	1
December ...	12	0	8	3
	130	51	62	20

The population in 1901 and number of deaths in each township during the year were as follows :—

Bedale Sub-District.

Township	Population in 1901	Deaths
Ainderby Miers	81	0
Aiskew	833	10
Bedale	1082	14
Bedale Workhouse		5
Burneston	241	2
Burrill with Cowling	118	3
Carthorpe	284	3
Crakehall	396	6
Exelby, Leeming and Newton	568	4
Firby	80	2
Gatenby	43	0
Hackforth	144	0
Killerby	41	0
Kirkby Fleetham	579	8
Langthorne	101	2
Rand Grange	25	0
Scruton	277	2
Swainby	46	1
Theakston	75	0
	5,014	62

Masham Sub-District.

Clifton-upon-Ure	62	1
East Tanfield	72	0
Howgrave	36	1
Rookwith	45	0
Snape	448	9
Sutton with Howgrave	74	0
Thirn	87	2
Thornton Watlass	164	1
Well	265	1
West Tanfield	527	5
	1,780	20

Causes of Death. The causes of death are given on Table IV.

There were no deaths from any epidemic disease except Influenza. Five died from this; their ages ranging from eleven weeks to 82 years.

There was one death from puerperal fever and one from erysipelas.

The Tubercle Baccillus accounted for five, this is about the average during the last five years.

Cancer killed four, their ages being from 46, 61, 72 and 77, again rather below the average.

Five people over 65 died of Bronchitis, and of the eight who died of pneumonia five were over 74.

There was one death from cirrhosis of the liver, and it is worthy of notice that it is the only death returned as from that cause in this district during the last three years, and was at the age of 77 years.

One death was due to an accident of child birth, and eight to heart disease.

There were only two accidents, both due to falls; in one case in a river, and the other in a house.

There was one suicide.

Nephritis caused nine deaths, cerebral hæmorrhage seven.

Appendecitis, Rheumatic Fever, Splenic Anæmia, Cerebral Embolism, Hernia, were each the cause of one death.

Infantile Convulsions were fatal three times.

In fifteen cases, or one in five of all the deaths, the reason given was natural decay or old age.

Inquests. Eight Inquests were held and in only one was no reason but "natural causes" given for death. One was insane suicide by drowning, two heart disease, one cerebral hæmorrhage, one accidentally drowned, one ribs broken by accident, one convulsions.

As regards the deaths under the age of one year, three of them were due to convulsions at the age of seven, nine, and ten months, and one to influenza at the age of eleven weeks.

Infectious Disease. The cases of Infectious Disease are shown in Table III. Altogether there were fifteen, none of them fatal.

Diphtheria. Three cases, none of them being of a severe type. The first occurred in January at Leeming Bar, a child of four in a house that had suffered in the previous epidemic. The second case was in Aiskew in May, a child of eight. No cases were infected by this child. The third was a child of five in Bedale during November. None were treated at the Fever Hospital.

Erysipelas. Seven cases of Erysipelas were notified, and in one case death resulted.

Scarlet Fever. Four cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. One aged 10 years in Aiskew for which no cause was found. One aged 14 years who was imported from Barnard Castle whilst suffering from the rash. She was admitted to the Fever Hospital, and no further cases occurred in the neighbourhood of her house in Leeming Bar. The other two cases were at Killerby. The first case was that of a child aged 5 not yet going to School, she acquired the disease from cases at a neighbouring farm in the Richmond district. The second child aged eight years was infected from the same place. Both cases were isolated in their own homes.

Puerperal Fever. There was one case, of a woman aged 30 years, who unfortunately died.

The year as a whole has been one with very little Notifiable Infectious Disease.

Measles has been very prevalent in certain districts. Tanfield, Hackforth and Burneston have suffered most

The following table shews the dates and localities affected. The total number of cases, fifteen, compares very favourably with past years.

Date.		Locality.	Disease.
22nd	Jan.	Carthorpe	Erysipelas
22nd	,,	Aiskew (Leeming Bar) ...	Diphtheria
9th	Feb.	Leeming	Erysipelas
8th	May	Aiskew	Diphtheria
9th	June	Aiskew	Scarlet Fever
26th	,,	Cowling	Erysipelas
9th	Aug.	Thornbrough	Erysipelas
20th	,,	Bedale	Puerperal Fever
15th	Oct.	Aiskew (Leeming Bar) .	Scarlet Fever
23rd	,,	Bedale	Erysipelas
31st	,,	Aiskew	Erysipelas
3rd	Nov.	Bedale	Diphtheria
13th	Dec.	West Tanfield	Erysipelas
18th	,,	Killerby	Scarlet Fever
30th	,,	Killerby	Scarlet Fever

	Cases.	Treated in Hospital.
1899 ...	38 .	0
1900 ...	13 ..	0
1901 ...	10 .	0
1902 ..	27 ...	0
1903 ...	45 ...	15
1904 ...	49 ...	10
1905 ...	39 .	4
1906 ...	51 ...	8
1907 ...	150 ...	23
1908 ...	47 ...	0
1909 ...	15 ...	1

Water Supply. During the year Bedale and part of Aiskew have obtained a source for a water supply, and the execution of the work is being handed over to a contractor.

There are several other townships in the district still badly in need of water. Leeming, Leeming Bar and Thornton Watlass are among these. Burrill has only a partial supply.

Vaccinations. The number of vaccinations still decreases, and many parents without serious consideration avail themselves of the exemption which is now so easy to obtain.

Foods & Drugs Act. No complaint has been made under this act.

Offensive Trades. There are none in this District.

Slaughter Houses. All in the District are private ones and are clean and well conducted.

Lodging Houses. There are only two, both are kept clean and order is preserved in them.

Isolation Hospital. The Isolation Hospital was only used once, for one patient suffering from Scarlet Fever. This was from Oct. 16th to Dec. 13th. The nursing at this Hospital was done by contract as in previous years.

Sanitary Work. Inspections. The various Defects from the Report Book are formulated in the following Table. It will be seen that 79 instances of insanitary conditions were reported, of which 67 have been abated, and 12 are receiving attention.

Nature of Nuisance.	Number	Abated	In hand
Defects of Dwellings :—			
Spouting wanted	6	3	3
Other defects	5	3	2
Privies and Ashpits :—			
Ashpits wanted	5	4	1
Ashpits want covers	3	2	1
Other defects	11	11	
Water Supply :—			
Pumps out of repair and wells cleaned out	10	10	
Drains :—			
Drains wanted	7	4	3
Gullies wanted	3	2	1
Drains blocked	8	8	
Other defects	7	6	1
Sewage tanks requiring repair or cleaning	14	14	
	79	67	12

I have great pleasure in testifying to Mr. Thompson's zeal and attention to his duties as Inspector of Nuisances, and expressing my thanks to him for his unfailing courtesy and ready co-operation.

SCAVENGING. This is still done by private enterprise. In Bedale the contents of the ashpits are emptied on to the Market Place and then taken away. In my opinion this should not be done during the day. It would be far better if the refuse were put directly into carts, and if the operation took place in the early hours of the morning.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries & Homework. I have received no complaints about any workshop or factory. There are twelve workshops, ten factories, and one laundry in the District.

Taking the year as a whole, I think it is a satisfactory one. The chief points for congratulation are the small number of Notifiable Infectious disease, the very small number of deaths under one year of age, the average age at death, and the well maintained balance between births and deaths.

Bedale too has, at last, obtained a supply of drinking water.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

FRANCIS R. EDDISON,

M. O. H.

19*th March*, 1910.

Table 1.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 and previous Years.

BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 year of age.		At all Ages.						
		Number.	Rate.*	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1899	7,147	179	25·04	13	72·62	91	12·73	5			91	12 73
1900	7,147	151	21·12	14	92·71	108	15·11	8	3		105	14·69
1901	6,794	182	26·78	28	153·85	106	15·58	3	2		104	15·16
1902	6,794	174	25·61	18	103·44	103	15 16	3	1		102	15·01
1903	6,794	165	24·28	20	121·21	81	11·90	6	2		79	11·63
1904	6,794	185	27·23	11	59·16	100	14·71	10	1		99	14·57
1905	6,794	182	26·75	16	87·91	98	14·42	6	1		97	14·2
1906	6,794	163	23·99	20	123·30	101	14·86	3			101	14·86
1907	6,794	176	25·92	8	45·45	78	11·48	7	1		77	11·33
1908	6,794	173	25 46	14	80·92	94	13 84	11	3		92	13·54
Averages for years 1899-1908	6864·6	173 0	25·20	16·2	94·05	95·9	13·99	6 2	1·4		94·7	13·77
1909	6,794	181	26·64	4	22·09	82	12·07	5			82	12·07

* Rates in columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 40,530.

Total population at all ages 6,794
Number of inhabited houses 1,562
Average number of persons per house 4 3
} At census of 1901.

Table 2.—Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1909 and previous Years.

BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT.

Names of Localities.	BEDALE and MASHAM.				BEDALE Sub-District.				MASHAM Sub-District.			
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1899 ..	7147	179	91	13	5246	134	73	10	1901	45	18	3
1900 ..	7147	151	105	14	5246	111	79	10	1901	40	26	4
1901 ..	6794	182	104	28	5014	141	71	21	1780	41	33	7
1902 ..	6794	174	102	18	5014	134	75	13	1780	40	27	5
1903 ..	6794	165	79	20	5014	128	61	14	1780	37	18	6
1904 ..	6794	185	100	11	5014	132	73	5	1780	53	27	6
1905 ..	6794	182	98	16	5014	135	75	13	1780	47	23	3
1906 ..	6794	163	101	20	5014	120	71	13	1780	43	29	7
1907 ..	6794	176	78	8	5014	133	61	7	1780	43	17	1
1908 ..	6794	173	94	14	5014	126	75	12	1780	47	19	2
Averages of Years 1899 to 1908.	6864·6	173·0	95·2	16 2	5060·4	131·4	71·4	11·8	1804·2	43·6	23 7	4 4
1909 ..	6794	181	82	4	5014	130	62	2	1780	51	20	2

Table 3.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1909.

BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.					Total cases notified in each locality.								No. of cases removed to hospital from each locality.	
						I.—Bedale Sub-District.						II.—Masham Sub-District.			
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years. 1 to 5	5 to 15	25 to 65	65 and upwards	Bedale	Aiskew	Leeming	Carthorpe	Cowling	Killerby	Thornbrough	West Tanfield	I.	II.
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	3	1	2			1	2								
Erysipelas	7	1		5	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1		
Scarlet Fever	4		4				2				2			1	
Puerperal Fever ..	1			1		1									
Totals	15	2	6	6	1	3	5	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	

Table 4.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1909.

BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belonging to localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District.		Total Deaths whether of 'Residents' or non-Residents' in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Bedale	Masham	
Epidemic influenza	5	1	1			1	2	4	1	
Puerperal fever	1					1		1		1
Erysipelas	1						1	1		
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuberculosis.)	3			1		2		3		
Other tuberculous diseases ..	2			2				2		
Cancer, malignant disease ..	4					2	2	2	2	
Bronchitis	5						5	4	1	1
Pneumonia	8		1			1	6	6	2	
Alcoholism } ..	1						1		1	
Cirrhosis of liver } ..										
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1					1		1		
Heart diseases	8		1	1		3	3	4	4	
Accidents	2					1	1	1	1	
Suicides	1					1		1		
Nephritis	9					3	6	8	1	1
Old age	15						15	12	3	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ..	7					1	6	7		1
All other causes	9	3		1		4	1	5	4	
All causes	82	4	3	5		21	49	62	20	5

Table 5.—Infantile Mortality during the Year 1909.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT.

Cause of Death.		2-3 Months	7-8 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes.	Certified	1	1	1	1	4
	Uncertified					
Other Causes.	Convulsions		1	1	1	3
	Influenza	1				1

181 Births in the year {legitimate / illegitimate} no record. Deaths in the year of {legitimate infants, 4 / illegitimate infants, 0}

Deaths from all causes at all ages, 82. Population, 6,794 (estimated to middle of 1909.)